

## THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, October 21, 1885.

CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

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One of the commonest mistakes which people, and especially good people, make is to confuse law with justice. The two cannot be too carefully separated. Law at best is a clumsy compromise by which a community waives some of its right for the sake of better protection in those whom they trust. It does not pretend to be perfect, and cannot well be so while conscience varies the standards of each individual.

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Might it not occur to the party workers on both sides in Ohio that fraud is a two-edged sword? Even rascals observe certain axioms of trade, not because of any partiality for just dealing, but because experience shows that in at least some respects, the rule of honesty is actually the best policy. Men who do not seek returns be advantageously included in this somewhat brief category. As elections occur frequently, and as in most states the power changes from one side to the other in the second of popular feeling, it might be understood and accepted that the ballot boxes be safe and the counts straight. There could be cheating enough to satisfy most of the "boys." But let the ballot boxes alone be safe, change figures, and add up columns straight. The advice, if followed, would save lots of trouble, and it might not change the result very much either, in a long period of years.

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